

Kenneth Boulding

Photo by Richard Reihl

City mgr to pick commissioner

By Bill Conklin

The fourth member of the Cambridge City Election Commission, the group that decides whether MIT students can vote in Cambridge, will be appointed in April.

In a meeting held by the Democratic City Commission last week, Sondra Scheir, Vincent Panico, and Thomas Neel were chosen as the three nominees for the post. In April James Sullivan, who will then be City Manager, will appoint one of the three to the Election Commission.

Andrew Trodden, the incumbent, failed in his bid for renomination. A member of the commission felt that it would be "fairly accurate" to say that many members were more interested in unseating Rodden than in electing any one candidate.

Sources in the commission expressed doubts as to the authenticity of Trodden's nomination four years ago. Some commission members only recalled nominating two people

at that time, with Trodden's name possibly being sent in with those two as a "back-door nominee."

When asked about this, Jerry Cohen, commission member, replied, "I don't know. It may be that Trodden was nominated by acclamation before the regular election."

Neel commented that Trodden was "the heavy choice of the City Commission at that time."

The meeting, which lasted only two and a half hours, went "very smoothly," according to Neel. "It's the shortest election we've had in years. Everything went as was expected, and everyone worked together. Trodden made his try for reelection, and he lost."

One probable reason for the brevity of the meeting was the passing of a motion made by David Sullivan '74 to elect the nominees by a roll call vote, rather than by secret ballot.

"Our individual votes should be recorded so that our voters can make us answer for them," he argued, "and on that basis decide whether we should be reelected or not."

Several members of Trodden's voting bloc argued strenuously against the motion, calling for their protection as private citizens to vote in secret ballot. Sullivan pointed out that they were voting as elected public representatives, not as private citizens.

Dial-a-bus: successful coping with shortages

By Jules Mollere

The Energy Crisis has brought to life many alternatives to the automobile. One of the most successful mass transit systems to date is called Dial-a-Bus.

Dial-a-Bus is an experimental system in which passengers telephone for a bus to pick them up at their door. The passengers are then deposited at their destinations, not at a not-so-near bus stop.

In a recent luncheon seminar on the Dial-a-Bus system in Rochester, New York, Daniel Roos, Associate professor of Civil Engineering, said that Dial-a-Bus is achieving "wonderful" results there but that any expansion of the system may be held up by lack of the necessary research.

"We can look at the wonderful things that are happening and trace them back to the period of research from 1967-70," Roos explained, "However, since then there has been a tremendous push to get something on the road, so much so that the door was closed on research in 1970... From 1970-73 we had the first generation of [Dial-a-Bus] projects, most of which were generally small and out of metropolitan areas. Now we're larger, automated and in the metropolis and, in trying to integrate with the existing systems we've run into some problems that Research should have handled for us."

Roos also stated that the lack of any transitional program from demonstration to production

and the ignoring of technological advice may cause problems. "We've gone into this with the idea that we can do whatever we want and just fix things up on the spot as we go along. The technicians just weren't listened to and we have to be concerned with that."

Despite these problems however, Roos stated that a great deal had been learned from the actual operations. "One of the things we have found to be of utmost importance is the selection of the site," said Roos. "We of course want the site to be as successful as possible for the system but we also want to be able to get as wide a cross-section of information as we can. The designers of the federal project at Haddonfield are still worried about whether or not they chose the best site and that has caused lots of problems."

According to Roos the project in Rochester should give the cross-section that is needed. "The project covers a small part of Rochester itself but is mostly in the suburban town of Greece. There are about some 5,500 people to the square mile and there are some major shopping areas nearby... The city of Rochester itself is suffering most of the typical problems facing cities today, such as the rapid flight to the suburbs. However the transit lines only extend to the edges of the city itself. Dial-a-Bus thus provides many of these people an alternative way to get to their jobs or schools in the inner city as well as those

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Boulding: change is decay

By Ralph Nauman

Change was equated with decay, and declared to be inevitable by Dr. Kenneth E. Boulding, who spoke at MIT last week.

Boulding, Director of the Program of Research on General Social and Economic Dynamics for the Institute of Behavioral Science at the University of Colorado, took part in a seminar jointly sponsored by the Technology and Culture Seminar and the Karl Taylor Compton Lecture Committee. The topic which attracted his remarks was "Defense Against Unwanted Change."

Respondents at the seminar were Professor of Management Paul W. Macavoy, and David Dodson Gray, an Episcopal minister. Louis Menand III, of the Political Science Department and the Provost's Office, served as moderator.

Boulding said that "Social change is something which goes on all the time whether we like it or not. Claiming, 'We're the only species around here who has the sheer brash to evaluate the Universe,' he suggested evaluating change is difficult because goodness "is surrounded by very dark clouds."

Boulding stressed the value of

stability. "If you look around you at the world, most change is bad," he said, calling upon his "second law of practically everything," which is that "most change is decay."

Boulding explained why things go bad. "The natural state of affairs is things going from bad to worse," he stated, adding, "All good things are artificial." In the US, we produce more goods "to fight decay, but producing goods produces bads," according to Boulding.

"A prime source of worsening is addiction," he said, referring to the demand in industrialized nations for affluence despite global shortages. Other factors are "externalities," which is where somebody else suffers the consequences of somebody's decision; and "suboptimization," which is the best way of doing something that shouldn't be done at all."

But the primary contributor to worsening, said Boulding, "is defense, in its largest sense; the effort to prevent change, even from bad to worse, often makes things worse." He said US national defense, for example, takes 6-7% of the GNP, but does not hurt the USSR, just as USSR defense hurts only Russians and not the US. He suggested, "millions for tribute, but not a penny for defense" may be a more realistic solution to that particular problem, though he added, "Marxism is the most miserable religion I know."

Boulding concluded, "I don't have the answers; there aren't any easy answers to these things... But sometimes the questions are more important than the answers."

Macavoy responded with President Nixon's economic recommendations, calling for patience, international perspectives, and stable domestic policies, and added "I'm supposed to see that Boulding and Nixon seem to be in close agreement." He suggested that Boulding's laissez-faire government was inadequate for the energy crisis and other

(Please turn to page 2).

More liberal arts needed, Asimov tells BU crowd

By Stephen Blatt

"Exercising your mind in a way peculiar to yourself is the great game of the universe. It is the greatest form of individualism in the world," according to Dr. Isaac Asimov.

Asimov, author of 150 books and professor of Biochemistry at the Boston University School of Medicine, represented the physical sciences in the third of a series of four programs of discussing "Why the Liberal Arts?" on February 28 at BU's Law Auditorium. Asimov said that the increased leisure time now available should be utilized to exercise the mind lest mass ennui set in, and that a liberal arts education makes available the knowledge to educate the mind. "To offer students the liberal arts is to offer them a chance to be human."

Leisure Time

Calling the liberal arts "whatever a person doesn't do for a living — to a scientist literature is the true liberal art, and to a writer, the sciences represent the liberal arts," Asimov spoke of the origins of the liberal arts in ancient Greece as leisure time activities. "The liberal arts are the arts for the free man," and in Greece, he said, the free men

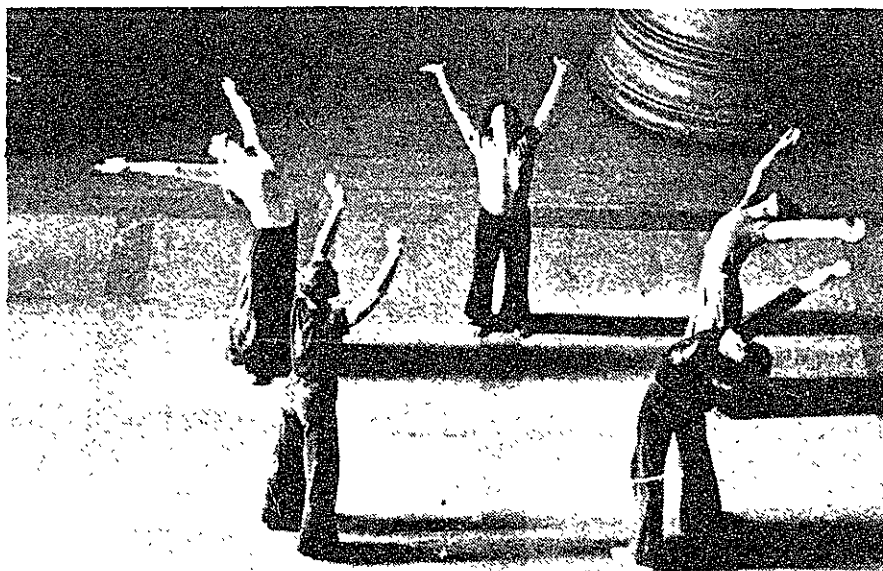
did not have to work for a living, but rather had all his work done for him by slaves.

"We all have leisure time now, and we have to find things to do with this leisure time. If we know what our career will be and specialize in it, then what do we do with the rest of our time? There are some things you can do, like nothing. Unfortunately this doesn't work. I have never heard of someone who did nothing forever. You can steal hubcaps, or watch TV, but you can't do nothing." But, according to Asimov, the latter are "extremely unsuccessful forms of spending time if you have an active mind."

Reading

According to Asimov, while almost everyone in the United States can read, very few enjoy reading. "The number of people in the US who read one book a year is far less than the number of people who don't read any books at all. Reading is a hard thing. Reading is a rewarding thing, too." Noting that people watching TV "are passive recipients, empty receptacles into which are poured" whatever the networks want, he added that "this may be the most efficient

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The City Dance Theater in the Lobby of Building 7.

Photo by Roger Goldstein



One witness watching the City Dance Theater (see page 1)

Photo by Roger Goldstein

'Everything gets worse,' Compton speaker says

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economic ills.

(Gray is currently working with MIT on "Strategies for a Sustainable Society.")

Gray suggested the central problem was "how to keep the systems you've got, going." He said the key factors for stability were "our impact on the biosphere," and our impact on each other in the "ethosphere (social world) ... There really are great limits to how much we can do to the biosphere and get away with it. We're going to have to contend with how we put constraints on each other so we don't do the biosphere in."

Boulding was asked why he thought more technology would remedy the ills of present tech-

nology. "It's like the hair of the dog that bit you," he said, adding that it was the hope of the future.

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Vol. XCIV, No. 8 March 5, 1974

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Second Class postage paid at Boston, Massachusetts. The Tech is published twice a week during the college year (except during college vacations) and once during the first week of August, by The Tech, Room W20-483, MIT Student Center, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139. Telephone: Area Code 617, 253-1541. United States Mail subscription rates: \$5.00 for one year, \$9.00 for two years.

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Biochemist boosts liberal arts

(Continued from page 1)

way of getting across a message ever invented." However, everyone who reads a book gets a different impression. "In books, you get only words — no pictures and no intonations. You have to imagine everything. If a book is read by 100,000 people, it is 100,000 books, in a way TV can't be.

"Reading is the first of the liberal arts — a fact which is always taken for granted," he said. This is because in earlier societies reading and education were synonymous: "you couldn't get an education without being able to read, and if you could read, there was nothing to do with it but get an education."

Asimov noted that we have several ways to fill our leisure time. "We can be spectators; we can eat, drink, and be merry. But none of this exercises the mind. The mind must be exercised — else we suffer boredom,

and boredom is the most painful disease ever invented." He described the liberal arts for the ancients as "a form of play restricted to those who had time." Now, however, "we are all fortunate enough to play the game if we can. It is the most relevant thing of all — one thing you will never exhaust and that you will always enjoy."

He claimed that there is no such thing as a "completed education." "A completed education is a rapidly forgotten education." College, rather than completing a person's education, merely begins it. "Everything you learn in college is an excuse to allow you to continue your education in other ways. It is an opportunity to gain an interest in something which will not be a source of income, but rather will be leading your brain to exercise, and filling your leisure time by amusing you in its own way."

In response to questions after the lecture, which was part of

the BU College of Liberal Arts Centennial Celebration, Asimov explained why he started writing stories. "There was never anything to read except magazines, which my father wouldn't let me touch. One day, I realized that if I wrote the stuff myself, I could then read it."

"We've got maybe 30 years before our technology and society fall apart," Asimov said in response to a question on his view of the future. "The American standard of living is already beginning to fall. We must learn that we can hate our neighbor all we want, just so long as we cooperate with him. Even with a restricted life in a physical sense, there remains one resource which is infinite — the human mind. We can develop a civilization which can grow intensively, instead of extensively. Perhaps we are now faced with a Toynbeeian challenge, and our response will determine the future of civilization."

Research lack slows Dial-a-bus

(Continued from page 1)

wives going to the market."

According to Roos this system, begun in August 1973, is already carrying over 500 people a day and the number of riders is increasing rapidly in apparent contradiction to what Roos admits to be the highest fares of any Dial-a-Bus system; 50 cents one way from home to school, 70 cents to work and 1 dollar generally. Roos said that approximately 25 percent of these riders drove their own cars previously, 12 percent would not have made the trip without Dial-

a-Bus and that the rest were evenly split up between having cycled previously, taken taxis, bicycles and on other transit lines.

Roos also mentioned that 50 percent of these trips on Dial-a-Bus were one way. He attributed this to people taking the bus to work every morning and being driven home by friends, and

housewives walking to the grocery store but having to take the bus to get all their packages home. Roos said that these figures were particularly gratifying as the system is being run by the Regional Transit system. "No one had ever tried working with such a large, traditionally labor organization. It seems to be working out however."

NOTES

* MITV Organizational Meeting. Tonight, 7:30pm, 9-550. All are invited, regulars must attend.

* Applications for the summertime Urban Legal Studies Project (ULSP) are now available in the Pre-Professional Office in Building 10. Undergraduates who are interested in law-related fieldwork positions should pick up an application by Tuesday, March 12 and return it by March 15. Although funding arrangements are not yet complete, salary is being estimated at \$120/week for 12 weeks.

The MIT ULSP is a student-initiated field education program concerned with the role of law in society. ULSP began in the spring of 1971 in response to the rapidly increasing interest in legal careers among undergraduates. That spring a group of students designed a summer project which would enable them, through law-related jobs, to evaluate the effectiveness of law as a tool for social change and thus help them to determine the appropriateness of a legal career to their interests.

There will be meetings for those with questions, or interest in applying, on Wednesday, March 6 in Room 3-270 at 7:30pm, and on Mar 7, at 7:30pm, Davis Lounge Wellesley. Previous fieldwork experience is not required, and applicants need not be considering a career in law.

* The MIT Flying Club will hold a meeting Wednesday, March 6, 1974 at 7:30pm in the Mezzanine Lounge of the Student Center. Several flying movies will be shown and refreshments will be available. For further information contact Tom McKim ext. 3-2843.

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Sports

B-ball upsets WPI in finale

By Glenn Brownstein

It took twenty-four games to do it, but the MIT varsity basketball team members meshed their individual talents perfectly Thursday night, solidly outplaying and defeating WPI at the Cage, 81-72. It was the final game of the season for the Engineers, who completed a generally disappointing season by beating a Worcester team that had beaten sectionally ranked Brandeis earlier in the year and was very highly rated.

The key to the ball game for MIT was rebounding, as the Engineer front line of Peter Jackson '76, Cam Lange '76, and Bill Courtright '76 combined for 52 rebounds, a team record for three players in any one game (19, 18, and 15, respectively). Courtright also added seven assists, unusual for a center, most of them coming on long downcourt passes for breakaway lay-ups, although a few were

thread-the-needle passes to Engineers driving the lane.

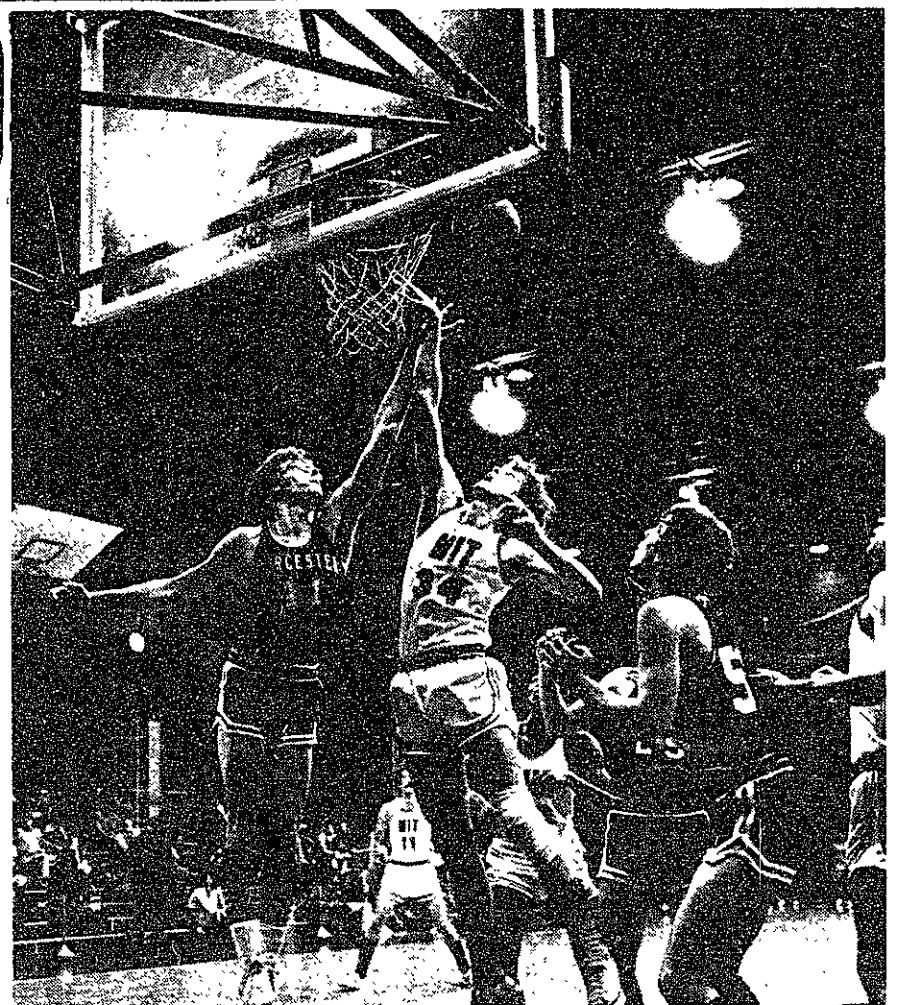
Co-captain Al Epstein '75 added six more assists to his record-breaking season total, winding up with 133. He also finished the year with a .461 field goal percentage, best on the team. Bob Roth '74 ended his MIT varsity basketball career with one of his best efforts this year, blazing from the outside in the first half and moving the ball deftly in the second.

Although the Engineers led 40-36 at the half, looking as sharp as they had all year, it was still quite possible that the team could turn around and lose the game in the second half, as MIT had done at least eight times previously this year. However, the collapse failed to materialize as the varsity increased its lead to as many as sixteen points in the second half, breezing to an easy win.

Lange led all scorers with 29 points, winding up the year with a team-leading 17.1 ppg. Roth added 18, while Jackson (leading board man this year with 282) pumped in 16 for the Engineers.

Despite the excellent win over WPI, the MIT hoopsters completed the 1973-74 season with a 4-19 record, the worst mark in the school's history. General inconsistency plagued the team all year, as it never seemed (until WPI) that more than two players could put their games together at any one time.

Still, on the more optimistic side, only John Mills '74 and Roth graduate among the starters and major subs, and it is hoped that Peter Maimonis '77, who picked up loads of valuable experience this season, will be able to fill the need for a new backcourt partner for Epstein. The starting frontcourt will be back for two more years, and the tremendous advantage of having virtually the whole team back next year, along with the lightening of the schedule (which this year seemed a little too strong for a school of MIT's size and recruiting policy) should improve the Engineers' record greatly next year.



MIT center Bill Courtright '76 (34) battles for a rebound in Thursday night's upset win over WPI while Engineer forwards Peter Jackson '76 and Cam Lange '76 look on. Photo by Robert Olshaker

Fencers win NE title

By Nelson Chu

For the fifth straight year MIT's fencers have won the New England Fencing Tournament, topping a field of eleven schools which included Brandeis, Brown, Dartmouth, Fairfield, Holy Cross, Northeastern, Norwich, Trinity, WPI, and the host school, Massachusetts University. The Engineers looked unbeatable from the start as they took their first twelve bouts before a loss. Losing only five more contests the rest of the way, MIT rolled up a remarkable total of 54 wins to easily outdistance the competition. WPI managed a second place finish with 44 wins, while Dartmouth recorded 38 to take third.

Maestro Silvio Vitale and Coach Eric Sollee deserve a great deal of praise as their men placed first in every weapon (sabre, foil, and epee).

In the sabre competition, Kong Park '75 broke a tie with Bourgeois of SMU and Guidi of

Dartmouth to gain his first place trophy. Also showing promise for MIT was Robert Shin '77 who finished in fourth.

Johan Akerman '77 easily placed second in the foil weapon, while teammate Rich Reimer '77 lost a close contest to Joey Yu of WPI for second.

The Engineers were especially impressive in epee, as Chip Farley '75 went undefeated and Chris Eckel '74 lost only one bout to place one-two.

With the New England championship attained, the fencers have but one more event remaining on their schedule, the Easterns at Harvard this coming weekend. With Army, CCNY, Columbia, Cornell, Harvard, Navy, NYU, Penn, Penn State, Princeton, Rutgers, and Yale entered, the Easterns shape up as a tough battle and should well be worth the time and the bus ride to watch MIT against some class schools.

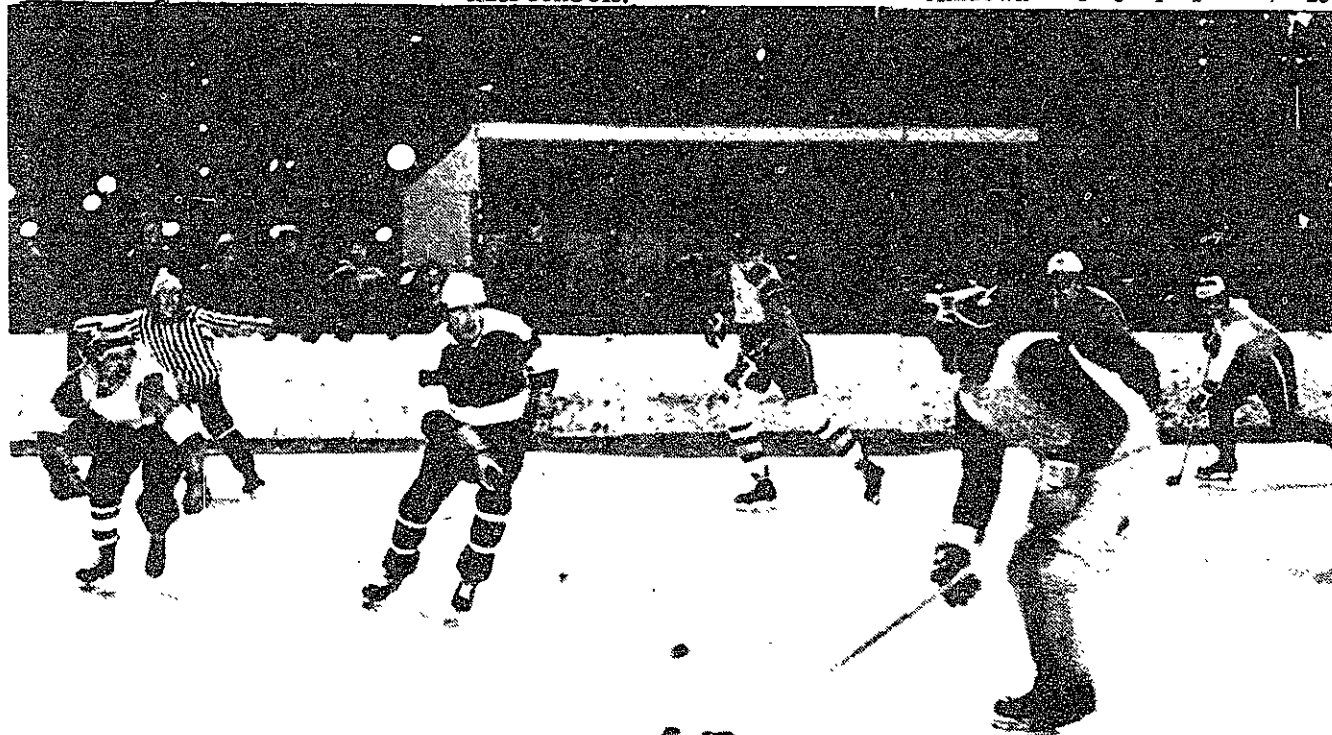
IM Hockey standings

The 1973-74 IM hockey season came to a close Sunday, March 3. A total of 180 contests were played this year, despite the fact that adverse weather conditions forced 25% to be rescheduled.

Although finishing with the same log as NRSA/FIJI, LCA was crowned the A-league champion by virtue of a better goals for goals against record.

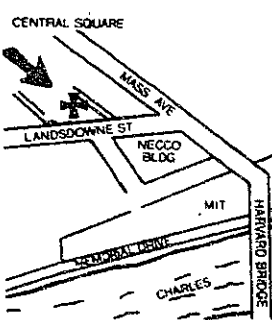
The final A-league standings:

TEAM	W	L	T	PTS	GF
LCA 'A'	4	1	1	9	22
NRSA/FIJI	4	1	1	9	16
TC 'A'	2	3	1	5	11
Ashdown	0	5	1	1	7



LCA captain Mark Abkowitz '74 chases the puck amidst numerous Ashdown defenders as LCA clinches the A-League championship with a 6-1 win last Wednesday. Photo by John Asinari

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